
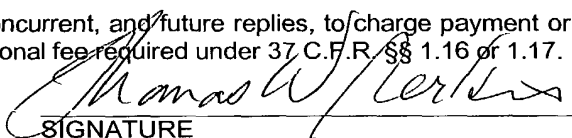


JC13 Rec'd PCT/PTO 20 MAR 2002

TRANSMITTAL LETTER OF THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371		Attorney Docket No. 0512-1023 U.S. Application No. 10/088651
INTERNATIONAL APPLN. NO. PCT/FR00/02434	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 4 SEPTEMBER 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 20 SEPTEMBER 1999
TITLE OF INVENTION: POLYDISPERSE DOUBLE EMULSION, CORRESPONDING MONODISPERSE DOUBLE EMULSION AND METHOD FOR PREPARING THE MONODISPERSE EMULSION		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DE/EO/US: JÉRÔME BIBETTE, FERNANDO LEAL CALDERON AND PHILIPPE GORRIA		
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below. 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31). 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(2)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau) b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau. See attached PCT/IB/308. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(2)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto. b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made, however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)). 9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). 10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). 		
Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) w/PTO-1449 - <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of IDS citations 12. <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s)) 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST Preliminary Amendment. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT Preliminary Amendment. 15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 16. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. 17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application (35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4)). 20. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: Abstract on a separate sheet, Application Data Sheet, Form PCT/IB/304, International Publication WO 01/21297 in French, International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409) & Annexes in French 		

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U.S. APPLICATION NO. 107088651		INTERNATIONAL APPLN. NO. PCT/FR00/02434		ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 0512-1023	
21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1)-(5): Neither international preliminary examination fee nor international search fee paid to USPTO and international Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO\$1040.00 International preliminary examination fee not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO\$890.00 International preliminary examination fee not paid to USPTO but International search fee paid to USPTO\$740.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provision of PCT Article 33 (1)-(4).....\$710.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provision of PCT Article 33 (1)-(4).....\$100.00 ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
				\$ 890.00	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration than <input type="checkbox"/> 20- <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30 Months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e))				\$ 130.00	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total Claims	20 - 20 =	0	X \$18.00	\$	
Independent Claims	3 - 3 =	0	X \$84.00	\$	
MULTIPLE DEPEND CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$280.00	\$	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATION -				\$ 1,020.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.				+	
SUBTOTAL =				\$ 1,020.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492Z(f)).				\$	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$ 1,020.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assigned (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) \$40.00 per property +				\$	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED -				\$ 1,020.00	
				Amount to be refunded:	\$
				Charged:	\$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Check in the amount of \$1,020.00 to cover all fees is attached. <input type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayments to Deposit account No. 25-0120 in the name of Young & Thompson, as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17.					
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: 745 South 23 rd Street Arlington, VA 22202 Telephone (703) 521-2297 Y&T Customer No. 000466			 00466 <small>PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE</small>		
TWP/lmt Date: 20 March 2002			 SIGNATURE Thomas W. Perkins NAME 33,027 REGISTRATION NO.		

PATENT
0512-1023

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Jérôme BIBETTE et al.

Appl. No.: **NEW NATIONAL PHASE
APPLICATION IN THE
UNITED STATES** Group:

Filed: March 20, 2002 Examiner:

For: POLYDISPERSE DOUBLE EMULSION,
CORRESPONDING MONODISPERSE DOUBLE
EMULSION AND METHOD FOR PREPARING THE
MONODISPERSE EMULSION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

March 20, 2002

Sir:

Prior to the first Official Action and calculation of the filing fee, the following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

Please insert the Abstract of the Disclosure attached on a separate sheet attached hereto.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-17 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

--18. (new) A fractionatable stable double emulsion, having a polydispersity greater than 30%, of the water-in-oil-in-water type, consisting of 50 to 95% by weight, with respect to the total weight of the double emulsion, of droplets of a monodisperse inverse emulsion Ei dispersed in a continuous aqueous phase; the monodisperse inverse emulsion Ei having a polydispersity of up to and including 30%;

- the continuous aqueous phase comprising a polysaccharide thickening agent at 1 to 10%.by weight with respect to the total weight of the continuous aqueous phase; a water-soluble sequenced copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide as surfactant; and an osmotic pressure balancing agent;

- the emulsion Ei having a viscosity up to and including the viscosity of the continuous aqueous phase and consisting of 50 to 95% by weight, with respect to the total weight of Ei, of droplets of an internal aqueous phase dispersed in an oily phase;

- the internal aqueous phase comprising at least one hydrophilic active substance;

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- the oily phase comprising polyglycerol polyricinoleate as surfactant; the concentration of balancing agent being sufficient to ensure osmotic balance between the aqueous phase of the emulsion Ei and the continuous aqueous phase.

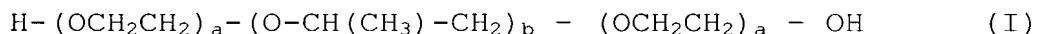
--19. (new) A double emulsion according to Claim 18, wherein the double emulsion comprises at least 60% by weight of droplets of emulsion Ei with respect to the total weight of the double emulsion.

--20. (new) double emulsion according to claim 18, wherein the agent for balancing the osmotic pressure is glucose.

--21. (new) A double emulsion according to claim 18, wherein the polysaccharide thickening agent is an alginate.

--22. (new) A double emulsion according to claim 21, wherein
the alginate has a molar mass of between 3000 and 6000 g/mol.

--23. (new) A double emulsion according to claim 18, wherein the formula of the sequenced copolymer is:



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in which

a is an integer between 50 and 120; and

b is an integer between 20 and 100.

--24. A double emulsion according to Claim 23, wherein the continuous aqueous phase comprises 1 to 5% by weight, with respect to the total weight of the continuous aqueous phase, of alginate, as a thickener; and 3 to 10% by weight with respect to the total weight of the continuous aqueous phase of the sequenced polymer of said formula (I), as a surfactant.

--25. (new) A double emulsion according to claim 24, wherein the alginate has a molar mass of between 3000 and 6000 g/mol.

--26. A double emulsion according to claim 18, wherein the continuous aqueous phase comprises glucose as osmotic pressure balancing agent, the molar ratio of the glucose concentration in the continuous aqueous phase to the concentration of active substance in the internal aqueous phase being between 1.5 and 2.5.

--27. (new) A double emulsion according to claim 18, wherein the oily phase comprises 60 to 90% by weight of polyglycerol polyricinoleate and 1 to 40% by weight dodecane.

--28. (new) A double emulsion according to claim 18,
wherein Ei comprises at least 60% by weight of droplets of
internal aqueous phase.

--29. (new) Method of preparing a stable double emulsion of the water-in-oil-in-water type, having a polydispersity up to and including 30%, wherein a double emulsion is subjected to a controlled shearing so that the same maximum shearing level is applied to all the emulsion, said double emulsion being a fractionatable stable double emulsion, having a polydispersity greater than 30%, of the water-in-oil-in-water type, consisting of 50 to 95% by weight, with respect to the total weight of the double emulsion, of droplets of a monodisperse inverse emulsion E_i dispersed in a continuous aqueous phase; the monodisperse inverse emulsion E_i having a polydispersity of up to and including 30%;

- the continuous aqueous phase comprising a polysaccharide thickening agent at 1 to 10% by weight with respect to the total weight of the continuous aqueous phase; a water-soluble sequenced copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide as surfactant; and an osmotic pressure balancing agent;

- the emulsion Ei having a viscosity up to and including the viscosity of the continuous aqueous phase and consisting of 50 to

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95% by weight, with respect to the total weight of Ei, of droplets of an internal aqueous phase dispersed in an oily phase;

- the internal aqueous phase comprising at least one hydrophilic active substance;

- the oily phase comprising polyglycerol polyricinoleate as surfactant; the concentration of balancing agent being sufficient to ensure osmotic balance between the aqueous phase of the emulsion Ei and the continuous aqueous phase.

--30. (new) A method according to Claim 29, wherein the controlled shearing is effected by bringing said double emulsion into contact with a moving solid surface, the velocity gradient characterising the flow of emulsion being constant in a direction perpendicular to the said moving solid surface.

--31. (new) A method according to Claim 29, wherein the maximum value of the shearing level is 1 to 1.105 s^{-1} .

--32. (new) A method according to Claim 29, wherein the maximum value of the shearing level is 100 to 5000 s^{-1} .

--33. (new) A method according to Claim 29, wherein the shearing is applied by homogeneous flow of the double

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copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide as surfactant;
and an osmotic pressure balancing agent;

- the emulsion Ei having a viscosity up to and including the viscosity of the continuous aqueous phase and consisting of 50 to 95% by weight, with respect to the total weight of Ei, of droplets of an internal aqueous phase dispersed in an oily phase;

- the internal aqueous phase comprising at least one hydrophilic active substance;

- the oily phase comprising polyglycerol polyricinoleate as surfactant.

--37. (new) An emulsion according to Claim 36, wherein the mean diameter of the droplets of emulsion Ei is between 1 and 10 μm . --

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REMARKS

Claims 1-17 have been cancelled and claims 18-37 have been added.

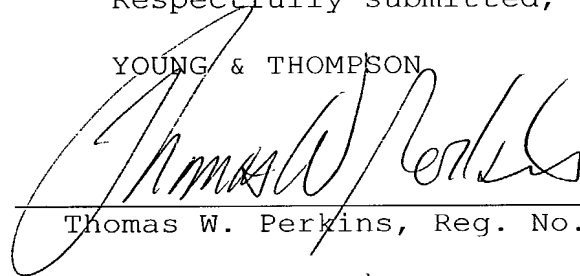
Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Thomas W. Perkins, Reg. No. 33,027

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Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297

TWP/lmt
Attachments

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A fractionable polydisperse stable double oil-in-water emulsion, having 50 to 95 wt. % relative to the total weight of the double emulsion, droplets of an invert monodisperse emulsion Ei dispersed in a continuous aqueous phase. The continuous aqueous phase includes a polysaccharide thickening agent in a proportion of 1 to 10 wt. % relative to the total weight of the continuous aqueous phase, a water-soluble ethylene oxide and propylene oxide block copolymer as surfactant, and an osmotic pressure balancing agent. The emulsion Ei has a viscosity not higher than the viscosity of the continuous aqueous phase and has 50 to 95 wt. %, relative to the total weight of Ei, droplets of an internal aqueous phase dispersed in an oily phase. The internal aqueous phase includes an active hydrophilic substance and the oily phase includes poly glycerol polyricinoleate as surfactant.

3/pvb

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Polydisperse double emulsion, corresponding monodisperse double emulsion and method for preparing the monodisperse emulsion

The invention concerns a monodisperse stable double emulsion of the water-in-oil-in-water type, its method of preparation and the polydisperse stable double emulsion used as a starting emulsion in the preparation method.

The advantage of double emulsions is widely recognised in fields as diverse as pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, pest and disease control, food and/or coatings of the paint type.

The double emulsions of the water-in-oil-in-water type allow in particular the encapsulation of various active substances at the internal aqueous phase. Under well determined conditions, it is in fact possible to cause the salting out of the encapsulated active substances whilst controlling their release kinetics.

The preparation of stable double emulsions of the water-in-oil-in-water type comprising an active substance in their internal aqueous phase is problematic. The development of such emulsions is generally achieved by trial and error on the basis of empirical rules according to the constituents present in the different phases. In the art, monodisperse double emulsions are particularly sought because of their homogeneity: in particular they allow a regular salting out of the active materials.

Various methods of preparing monodisperse emulsions are known: a first method is that described in EP 442 831 and EP 517 987.

This method involves the fractionation of a starting polydisperse primary emulsion, by successive creamings. It is lengthy and tedious and not easily applicable on an industrial scale. A second method is described in FR 97 00 690. It consists of subjecting a starting viscoelastic primary emulsion to a controlled shearing so that the same maximum shearing is applied to all the emulsion. This method has various advantages and in particular allows control over the size of the droplets of the monodisperse emulsion obtained.

When one or other of these methods is applied to a double emulsion, it is essential not to introduce the destruction of the double emulsion by causing for example the coalescence of the droplets forming the emulsion or the premature leakage of the active principle.

Under these circumstances, it will be understood that the development of a double emulsion of the water-in-oil-in-water type which is both stable and fractionatable is extremely tricky. It must be understood that, in the context of the invention, fractionatable emulsion means an emulsion which it is possible to process according to the methods described above with a view to obtaining an emulsion, of the same nature (of the water-in-oil-in-water type), with the same formulation (same compositions of the different phases), and which is both stable and monodisperse.

In the context of the present invention, the double emulsion of the water-in-oil-in-water type consists of droplets of a monodisperse inverse emulsion E_i , dispersed in a continuous aqueous phase (or external aqueous phase), the emulsion E_i itself consisting of droplets of an internal aqueous phase dispersed in an oily phase.

According to the invention, the term monodisperse characterises the emulsions for which the granulometric distribution of the dispersed phase droplets is very narrow.

It is considered that the distribution is very narrow when the polydispersity is less than or equal to 30%, and preferably around 5 to 25%, for example between 10 and 20%.

In the context of the invention, the polydispersity is defined as the ratio of the standard deviation of the Gaussian curve representing the variation in the volume occupied by the dispersed material as a function of the diameter of the droplets to the mean diameter of the droplets.

Thus the expression "monodisperse inverse emulsion Ei" designates an emulsion of the water-in-oil type consisting of droplets of water dispersed in oil, for which the granulometric distribution of the water droplets is very narrow (polydispersity less than 30%).

According to a first aspect, the present invention provides a polydisperse double emulsion of the water-in-oil-in-water type which is stable and fractionatable. In this double emulsion, the distribution of the diameter of the droplets of emulsion Ei dispersed in the continuous aqueous phase is wide whilst the distribution of the diameter of the internal aqueous phase droplets dispersed in the oily phase of the emulsion Ei is narrow.

More precisely, the fractionatable double emulsion of the invention consists of 50 to 95% by weight, with respect to the total weight of the double emulsion, of droplets of a

- the continuous aqueous phase comprising a polysaccharide thickening agent at 1 to 10% by weight with respect to the total weight of the continuous aqueous phase; a water-soluble sequenced copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide by way of surfactant; and an osmotic pressure balancing agent;

- the emulsion E_i having a viscosity less than or equal to the viscosity of the continuous aqueous phase and consisting of 50 to 95% by weight, with respect to the total weight of E_i, of droplets of an internal aqueous phase dispersed in an oily phase;

- the internal aqueous phase comprising at least one hydrophilic active substance;

- the oily phase comprising polyglycerol polyricinoleate by way of surfactant.

The double emulsion of the invention comprises 50 to 95% by weight, preferably at least 60% by weight, for example 65 to 85% by weight, with respect to the total weight of the double emulsion, of droplets of emulsion E_i.

Examples of polysaccharide thickening agents which can be used according to the invention are Irish moss, gum tragacanth, starch and its derivatives, cellulose and its derivatives (and more particularly hydroxyethylpropylcellulose, hydroxybutylmethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose or carboxymethylcellulose), xanthan gum, guar gum, carrageenans and alginates.

The preferred thickening agents are alginates, which are polymer salts of the linear type comprising β -(1 \rightarrow 4)-D-mannosyluronic acid and α -(1 \rightarrow 4)-L-gulosyluronic acid units.

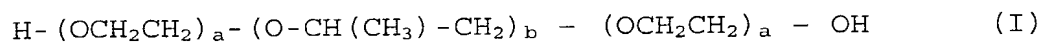
Amongst these there are particularly preferred the alginates with a mean molar mass of between 1000 and 10,000 g/mol, better still between 3000 and 6000 g/mol.

The quantity of thickening agent is limited according to the invention; it should not exceed 10% by weight with respect to the total weight of the continuous aqueous phase. Preferably, the thickening agent content is between 1 and 5% by weight with respect to the total weight of the continuous aqueous phase, better still between 1 and 3% by weight, an appreciably preferred value being around 1.5% by weight.

The surfactants of the sequenced copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide type are widespread in the art.

It is essential according to the invention for the said copolymer to be water-soluble. Preference is given to copolymers having an HLB greater than 15, better still greater than 20 and for example at least 25. The term HLB (Hydrophilic Lipophilic Balance) designates the ratio of the hydrophilia of the polar groups of the surfactant molecules to the hydrophobia of their lipophilic part. HLB values are notably reported in various basic manuals such as the "Handbook of Pharmaceutical Excipients", The Pharmaceutical Press, London 1994.

According to a preferred embodiment of the invention, there is used as a preferred sequenced copolymer a copolymer complying with the formula (I):



in which

a is an integer between 50 and 120, preferably between 70 and 110; and

b is an integer between 20 and 100, preferably between 30 and 70.

Such polymers are sold by ICI under the brand name Synperonic PE[®].

Amongst these, those having a molar mass of between 2000 and 15,000 g/mol, preferably between 5000 and 14,000 g/mol, preferably between 8000 and 12,000 g/mol, will advantageously be selected.

The kinematic viscosity of the polymers of the Synperonic PE[®] type is preferably between 150 and 1200 mm².s⁻¹ at 100°C, better still between 500 and 1100 mm².s⁻¹.

Poloxamer 188 of formula (I) above, in which a = 75 and b = 30, is more particularly preferred.

The quantity of surfactant copolymer which is to be used is easily determined by a person skilled in the art using his basic knowledge of the art, according to the nature of the said copolymer, as well as the nature of the different constituents present.

When the surfactant copolymer complies with formula (I) above in the presence of an alginate in the continuous aqueous phase, by way of thickening agent, a copolymer content varying between 3 and 10%, for example between 3 and 8% by weight with respect to the total weight of the continuous aqueous phase, is particularly appropriate.

The presence of an agent balancing the osmotic pressure in the continuous aqueous phase is an essential characteristic of the invention. According to the invention, the osmotic pressure balancing agent is a hydrophilic substance with no surface activity.

By way of balancing agents which can be used according to the invention, a person skilled in the art will be able to use any one of the balancing agents normally used in the art.

Particularly preferred examples of these are sorbitol, glycerol and the mineral salts such as ammonium salts and alkali or alkaline^a earth metal salts.

According to a preferred embodiment of the invention, use is made of a monosaccharide glucid, such as fructose, lyxose, arabinose, ribose, xylose, glucose, altrose, mannose, idose, galactose, erythrose, threose, sorbose, fucose or rhamnose, glucose being clearly preferred.

A person skilled in the art will easily determine the concentration of osmotic pressure balancing agent according to the concentration of active substance present in the internal aqueous phase.

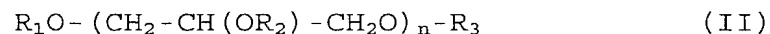
More precisely, the concentration of balancing agent will be determined so as to ensure osmotic balance between the internal aqueous phase and the continuous aqueous phase. It depends on the osmolality of the hydrophilic active substance or substances (present in the internal aqueous phase) as well as the osmolality of the said balancing agent in the continuous aqueous phase.

The emulsion Ei comprises 50 to 95% by weight, with respect to the total weight of Ei, preferably at least 60% droplets, for example between 60 and 80% by weight, of an internal aqueous phase. This droplet concentration is essential for procuring sufficient viscosity for the emulsion Ei.

The fractionatable character of the resulting double emulsion and the possibility of preparing a monodisperse double emulsion in fact requires the viscosity of the emulsion E_i to be less than or equal to the viscosity of the continuous aqueous phase. By way of indication the viscosity of the continuous aqueous phase varies between 10 and 10,000 cp.

The nature of the oily phase of the emulsion E1 is not determinant according to the invention, provided that the viscosity characteristics are ensured and in so far as it contains polyglycerol polyricinoleate as a surfactant.

The polyglycerol polyricinoleate complies with the formula:



where

n is equal to 2 to 12;

$$\text{H}-[\text{O}-\text{CH}((\text{CH}_2)_5\text{CH}_3)-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-(\text{CH}_2)_7-\text{CO}]_n-\quad (\text{III})$$

m is equal to 2 to 10.

Examples of commercially available polyglycerol polyricinoleate are Admul Wol 1403 (Quest), Radiamuls Poly 2253 (Fina) and Grindsted PGPR 90 (Danisco).

According to a preferred variant of the invention, the oily phase comprises 60 to 99% by weight of polyglycerol polyricinoleate.

The oily phase generally comprises one or more oils whose nature is not critical.

"Oil" means according to the invention any hydrophobic liquid substance, insoluble or only a little soluble in water, able to

be put in an aqueous emulsion in the presence of polyglycerol polyricinoleate as a surfactant.

Such a hydrophobic and insoluble substance can for example be an organic polymer such as a polyorganosiloxane, a mineral oil such as hexadecane, a vegetable oil such as soya or ground nut oil or liquid crystals (lyotropic or thermotropic).

Preferably, the oily phase contains an aliphatic, cyclic and/or aromatic C₈-C₃₀ hydrocarbon. By way of example, the oily phase comprises dodecane.

By way of example, the oily phase comprises 60 to 99% by weight polyglycerol polyricinoleate and 1 to 40% by weight dodecane.

The internal aqueous phase comprises at least one water-soluble active substance.

Such active substances are preferably in the form of water-soluble polymers or salts.

Nevertheless, it may be a case of any type of active substance generally used in one or more of the pharmaceutical, cosmetic, pest and disease control, food and/or paint fields.

It can thus be chosen from amongst vitamins (E, C), enzymes, insulin, analgesics, antimitotic, anti-inflammatory or antiglaucomatous agents, vaccines, anticancer agents, narcotic antagonists, detoxification agents (salicylates, barbiturates), depilatories, taste correcting or masking agents, water-soluble salts, acids, bases, vinegar, glucose, colorants, preservatives or mixtures thereof.

When the active substance is not in the form of an organic or mineral salt or water-soluble polymer, it is advantageous to add to the said internal aqueous phase a salt such as an alkaline metal chloride (NaCl or KCl) or a water-soluble polymer such as an alginate, hydroxyethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose or a poly(acrylic) acid.

The concentration of active substance depends on the nature of the active substance and the contemplated application.

The double emulsion of the invention can be prepared according to a method consisting of:

a - dispersing, in a conventional fashion, an aqueous solution A_1 comprising at least one hydrophilic active substance in an oily phase comprising polyglycerol polyricinoleate as surfactant, so as to obtain a stable inverse emulsion of the oil in water type, the quantity of aqueous phase A_1 being chosen so as to result in an inverse emulsion comprising 50 to 95% by weight of droplets of internal aqueous phase;

b - subjecting the emulsion obtained at the previous step to a controlled shearing so that the same maximum shearing is applied to all the emulsion, so as to obtain the corresponding monodisperse inverse emulsion;

c - adding, drop by drop, under constant stirring, the monodisperse emulsion resulting in an aqueous phase A_2 comprising 1 to 10% by weight of a polysaccharide thickening agent; a sequenced copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide, by way of surfactant; and an osmotic pressure balancing agent, the said aqueous phase A_2 having a viscosity at least equal to the viscosity of the monodisperse emulsion.

At step a) the emulsification is implemented in a conventional fashion. When the aqueous phase A_1 is dispersed in the oily phase, the oily phase is maintained under stirring by the use of any one of the devices normally used in the art.

Amongst known devices, preference is given to mechanical shearing agitators whose geometry provides a certain evenness of shearing in order to avoid the formation of droplets which are excessively small and notably with a diameter less than $1 \mu\text{m}$.

At step b), the inverse emulsion obtained at step a), which is polydisperse, is converted into a monodisperse inverse emulsion. The technique used to do this is the one described in International Application WO 97/38787. It is repeated below.

At step c), it is essential according to the invention to ensure that each drop of monodisperse inverse emulsion obtained at the previous step b) is incorporated in the continuous phase (aqueous phase A_2) before adding the following drop. This avoids the formation of multiple droplets of emulsion in dispersion in the continuous phase A_2 , a multiple emulsion being defined as the superimposition of more than two emulsions.

So as to meet this requirement, a person skilled in the art will regulate the rate of introduction of the drops according to the type of agitator used and the efficacy of the stirring.

Advantageously, the continuous phase A_2 is kept under stirring by the action of a colloid mill. By way of indication, the

It must be understood however that, according to the invention, the continuous aqueous phase A₂ must not be stirred too vigorously, so as not to cause the formation of droplets of emulsion with a diameter of less than 1 μm.

The emulsion obtained is also viscoelastic.

According to the invention, the viscoelasticity domain is delimited by the following equations (1) and (2) showing the variations in the elastic modulus G' and the dissipation modulus G'' :

$$(2) \quad \frac{G'}{G''} \geq 0.01$$

G' and G'' being measured at the maximum shearing level to which it is intended to subject the primary emulsion.

Preferably, the moduli G' and G'' satisfy the following equations (3) and (4).

$$(3) \quad 1 \text{ dyne/cm}^2 \quad (1.10^{-1} \text{ N/m}^2 \ll (G'^2 + G''^2)^{+1/2} \ll 1.10^4 \text{ dyne/cm}^2 \\ (1.10^3 \text{ N/m}^2)$$

$$(4) \quad 0.1 \ll \frac{G'}{G''} \ll 10$$

According to a second of its aspects, the invention concerns a method of preparing a double emulsion of the water-in-oil-in-water type, which is stable and monodisperse, starting from the corresponding polydisperse double emulsion of the invention.

This method comprises the essential step d) consisting of subjecting the polydisperse emulsion obtained at the end of the previous step c) to a controlled shearing so that the same maximum shearing is applied to all the emulsion. The technique used to do this is the same as at step b) above, namely the one set out in International Application WO 97/38787. This technique is now disclosed in detail.

It can for example be envisaged subjecting all the emulsion to a constant shearing level.

However, the invention does not intend to limit itself to this particular embodiment.

In fact, the shearing level can be distinct, at a given time, for two points of the emulsion.

By varying the geometry of the device used for generating the shearing forces, it is possible to modulate the shearing level applied to the emulsion in time and/or in space.

Provided that the emulsion is flowing when subjected to shearing, each part of the emulsion can thus be subjected to a shearing level which varies in time. The shearing is said to be controlled when, whatever the variation in time of the shearing level, this passes through a maximum value which the same for all the parts of the emulsion, at a given time, which may differ from one point to another in the emulsion.

In a preferred manner, so as to control the shearing, the polydisperse double emulsion is introduced into an appropriate device.

Appropriate devices are described in the application FR 97 00690 or in International Application WO 97/38787.

Briefly, an appropriate device is a Couette cell in which the shearing is constant, the Couette cell consisting of two concentric cylinders rotating with respect to each other.

A second device is a cell consisting of two moving parallel plates oscillating with respect to each other and between which the polydisperse double emulsion is forced.

Another device is a cell consisting of two concentric discs rotating with respect to each other and between which the polydisperse double emulsion circulates.

These cells are normally used in commercial appliances, in particular flow meters for measuring the viscoelastic properties of liquids (for example Carrimed or Rheometrics).

The maximum value of the shearing level to which the primary emulsion is subjected depends on the frequency of rotation, the frequency of oscillation and/or the amplitude of oscillation of the movement of the plates, cylinders and discs in the devices described above.

In general terms, it has been found that a high value of the maximum shearing level results in the formation of emulsions consisting of droplets of emulsion E_1 of very small size and having a very narrow granulometric distribution.

So as to increase the value of the maximum shearing level, a person skilled in the art can act on several parameters, namely the frequency of rotation, the frequency of oscillation and/or the amplitude of oscillation of the movement of the plates, cylinders and discs in the devices described above, and on the dimension of the respective enclosures of the different devices in the direction perpendicular to the direction of flow imposed by the movement of the surface.

It should be noted that the maximum shearing level varies linearly with the amplitude of oscillation and/or the frequency of the movement and inversely with the dimension of the enclosure in a direction perpendicular to the flow.

It is preferred that the maximum shearing level be between 1 and 1.10^5 s^{-1} , preferably between 100 and 5000 s^{-1} , for example between 500 and 5000 s^{-1} .

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It is important, according to the invention, for the flow of the starting polydisperse double emulsion to be homogeneous (no fractures) when it passes through any one of the devices described above.

More precisely, when the controlled shearing is carried out by putting the said emulsion in contact with a moving solid surface, a homogeneous flow is characterised by a constant velocity gradient in a direction perpendicular to the moving solid surface.

One means of controlling the flow consists of acting on the dimension d of the enclosures in the direction perpendicular to the flow imposed by the movement of the surface.

It should be noted that, in the case of the Couette device, this dimension d is defined by the difference $(R_3 - R_2)$ where R_2 and R_3 are respectively the radii of the internal and external cylinders of the Couette device.

In the case of the cell consisting of two moving parallel plates oscillating with respect to each other, this dimension d is defined by the distance separating the two plates in a direction perpendicular to them.

In the case of the cell consisting of two concentric discs rotating with respect to each other, this dimension is defined by the distance separating the two discs in the direction of the axis of rotation of the moving disc.

In general terms, a heterogeneous flow can be made homogeneous by reducing the size of the enclosure and more particularly by

reducing its dimension in the direction perpendicular to the direction of flow.

Thus, in the case of the three devices mentioned above, the dimension d is preferably kept below 200 μm , for example between 100 and 200 μm .

The method of the invention makes it possible to prepare double emulsions where the size of the droplets of emulsion E_i have a diameter situated in the range 1 to 50 μm , notably in the range 2 to 10 μm .

The diameter of the droplets of the emulsion E_i can be measured by using any one of the known methods of the prior art: two of these methods are normally used in the art. The first is phase contrast microscopy, the second is laser granulometry. A third method appropriate to the case of emulsions consisting of at least 65% by weight dispersed phase consists of filling with double emulsion a cell allowing the transmission of at least 80% of the incident light. By sending a laser beam through the cell and placing a screen on the path after the cell, a diffusion ring is noted whose position directly gives the mean diameter 2a of the droplets using the convention formula:

$$2a = \lambda \cdot (n \cdot \sin \theta / 2)^{-1}$$

θ being the angle formed by the position of the ring and the initial beam,

λ being the wavelength of the light, and

n being the index of refraction of the medium.

By proceeding thus, at step b) and at step d) described above, monodisperse emulsions are obtained, that is to say ones whose polydispersity is in all cases less than 30%, preferably between 5 and 25%, for example between 10 and 20% or at least between 15 and 20%.

At step b) the polydispersity characterises the distribution of the diameters of the droplets of the internal aqueous phase A_1 .

At step d) the polydispersity characterises the distribution of the diameters of the droplets of inverse emulsion E_i .

The invention finds applications in many fields such as the pharmaceutical and cosmetic fields, the detergents field, the liquid crystal display field, the pest and disease control field and water-based paints. The emulsions of the invention are also useful in surface treatment.

The following examples, which make reference to Figures 1 to 5, illustrate the invention further.

For all the examples, the device used for the preparation of monodisperse emulsions from corresponding polydisperse emulsions is the Couette cell depicted in Figure 1: this consists of two concentric cylinders 2 and 3 in constant rotation with respect to each other. In Figure 1, the internal cylinder 2 is immobile whilst the external cylinder 3 has a rotation movement which is uniform with respect to a driving axis 15. The concentric cylinders 2 and 3 delimit an annular enclosure 4. At the top and bottom ends of the enclosure 4 there are disposed two annular sealed ball bearings 5 and 6. A cover 7, whose dimensions correspond to those of the external cylinder 3, closes off the top part of the device.

The concentric cylinders 2 and 3 are offset with respect to each other in the direction of the length so that the bottom part 8 of the internal cylinder rests on a flat support 9.

The Couette cell 1 depicted in Figure 1 also comprises a polydisperse emulsion supply pipe 10 which passes through the support 9 and opens out in the top part 11 of the enclosure 4. The other end of the supply pipe is connected to a reservoir 12 containing the polydisperse emulsion. The polydisperse emulsion supply rate is controlled by a piston 13. The bottom part of the enclosure 4 diametrically opposite to the point 11 is provided with a pipe 14 discharging the polydisperse emulsion, which passes through the flat support 9.

The device of Figure 1 allows the continuous preparation of the target monodisperse emulsion. During production, the enclosure 4 is continuously supplied with polydisperse emulsion through the pipe 10. The polydisperse emulsion circulates in the enclosure 4 whilst being subjected to shearing forces generated by the uniform rotation of the external cylinder 3 on itself.

In such a device the polydisperse emulsion is subjected to a constant shearing level, the shearing level being defined here as the ratio of the linear speed to the point of contact with the surface of the external cylinder 3 to the difference ($R_3 - R_2$) where R_2 and R_3 are respectively the radii of the internal 2 and external 3 cylinders.

The size of the droplets of emulsion E_i was determined in all cases by phase contrast microscopy and by laser granulometry.

EXAMPLE 1

Preparation of a monodisperse double emulsion for which the mean diameter of the droplets of emulsion E_i is $0.3 \mu\text{m}$.

In this example, the presence of an active substance in the internal aqueous phase is simulated by introducing the potassium chloride therein.

Firstly, a polydisperse inverse emulsion is prepared, water in dodecane, stabilised by polyglycerol polyricinoleate. This inverse emulsion is prepared by introducing a 0.2 M aqueous solution of potassium chloride in a continuous phase, kept under constant stirring and consisting of dodecane and polyglycerol polyricinoleate in a ratio by weight of 1:9. The quantity of aqueous solution added is such that the dispersed aqueous phase represent 80% of the total mass of the inverse emulsion.

This inverse emulsion is then sheared at a shearing level of 1050 s^{-1} in a Couette device characterised by a gap d of $100 \mu\text{m}$. The emulsion obtained E_i^0 is monodisperse, the mean diameter of the internal aqueous phase droplets being $0.3 \mu\text{m}$.

An aqueous solution consisting of water, 2% by weight alginate HF120L (polysaccharide with a mean molar mass of 5400 g), 5% by weight of Synperonic PE/F 68 (sold by ICI, viscosity = 1325 cp at 77°C , molar mass = 8350, HLB = 29 and formula I in which $a = 75$ and $b = 30$) and glucose in a sufficient quantity for the said aqueous solution to be 0.4 M in glucose, is poured into a colloid mill. The speed of rotation of the blades is fixed at 1 revolution per second. The monodisperse inverse emulsion E_i^0 prepared above is then added drop by drop to the said aqueous

phase, kept under stirring. The quantity of emulsion E_i^0 poured into the aqueous solution of glucose, alginate and Synperonic PE/F68 is such that the ratio ϕ_g (fraction by weight of emulsion E_i^0) of the mass of emulsion E_i^0 to the total mass of double emulsion is 0.70.

The rate of introduction of the drops of emulsion E_i^0 into the aqueous phase is adjusted so as to ensure the incorporation of each drop before the introduction of the following drop.

The emulsion obtained, which is a polydisperse stable double emulsion, is then introduced into a Couette cell, as depicted in Figure 1, for which $R_3 - R_2 = 100 \mu\text{m}$ and in which the constant shearing level is 1050 s^{-1} . At the discharge from the Couette device, a monodisperse stable double emulsion is recovered, characterised by a polydispersity of less than 20%, the polydispersity being defined as the ratio of the standard deviation of the Gaussian curve representing the variation in the volume occupied by the dispersed matter as a function of the diameter of the droplets to the mean diameter of the droplets of emulsion E_i^0 . The mean diameter of the droplets of emulsion E_i^0 is $4 \mu\text{m}$.

EXAMPLE 2

Study of the influence of the shearing level and of the weight fraction of the internal aqueous phase on the diameter of the droplets of emulsion E_i .

The weight fraction ϕ_i of the internal aqueous phase is defined as the ratio of the internal aqueous phase weight to the total weight of emulsion E_i .

In Example 1, ϕ_i is equal to 0.8.

Various monodisperse inverse emulsions E_i are prepared by simple dilution in dodecane of the emulsion E_i^0 prepared at Example 1. In this way three emulsions with different ϕ_i are obtained:

E_i^1 : $\phi_i = 0.75$

E_i^2 : $\phi_i = 0.65$

E_i^3 : $\phi_i = 0.55$

By proceeding as in Example 1, there are prepared, from these monodisperse inverse emulsions, three polydisperse double emulsions with identical weight fractions ϕ_g equal to 0.70, ϕ_g being defined as in Example 1, that is to say the ratio of the weight of emulsion E_i^1 , E_i^2 or respectively E_i^3 to the total mass of double emulsion. Then these polydisperse double emulsions are sheared in a Couette device.

The distance $R_3 - R_2$ in the Couette cell is fixed at 100 μm . The speed of rotation of the cylinder 3 is varied so that the shearing level varies between 150 and 12,000 s^{-1} .

For each shearing level, the mean diameter of the droplets of emulsion E_i is measured. Figure 2 shows the variations in the mean diameter of the droplets of emulsion according to the shearing for three different weight fractions ϕ_i .

A reduction in the diameter of the droplets at a high shearing level is observed, for a given weight fraction ϕ_i .

Moreover, for a given shearing, a reduction in the diameter of the droplets by a reduction in the weight fraction ϕ_i is

observed. Thus two parameters make it possible to control the mean diameter of the droplets, namely the weight fraction of the internal aqueous phase droplets and the shearing level.

EXAMPLE 3

Study of the influence of the shearing level and of the weight fraction of the inverse emulsion E_i .

Starting with the monodisperse inverse emulsion E_i^2 of $\phi_i = 0.65$ prepared in Example 2, various polydisperse double emulsions are prepared with varied ϕg , operating as in Example 1 except that the aqueous solution used (external continuous phase) consists of water, glucose (0.4 M), 1.5% by weight alginate and 5% by weight Synperonic PE/F 68.

The respective quantities of monodisperse emulsion E_i^2 and of aqueous solution (continuous phase) are calculated so as to obtain different weight fractions ϕg of emulsion:

For a first double emulsion E^1 , $\phi g = 0.70$.

For a second double emulsion E^2 , $\phi g = 0.80$.

For a third double emulsion E^3 , $\phi g = 0.90$.

Each of the polydisperse double emulsions obtained E^1 to E^3 is introduced into a Couette cell ($R_3 - R_2 = 100 \mu m$) and subjected to a given shearing level.

For each double emulsion, the influence of the shearing level on the diameter of the droplets is studied.

The results are set out in Figure 3.

Just as in the previous example, a reduction in the mean diameter of the droplets of emulsion for increasing values of the shearing level is observed.

In the case of the three emulsions E^1 , E^2 and E^3 the curves representing the variation in the mean diameter as a function of the shearing are almost superimposable. The influence of ϕ g on the mean diameter of the droplets is practically negligible.

EXAMPLE 4

Study of the influence of the viscosity of the external continuous aqueous phase.

In this example two polydisperse double emulsions with different alginate HF 120L concentrations are prepared.

Operating as in Example 1, the following two polydisperse double emulsions are prepared:

Double emulsion E^4 :

→ external continuous aqueous phase:

Percentage by weight or concentration calculated with respect to the continuous external aqueous phase

glucose:	0.4 M
Synperonic PE/F68:	5%
alginate:	2%

water:qsp.

→ monodisperse inverse emulsion E_i^2 : $\phi_g = 0.7$

Double emulsion E^5 :

→ external continuous aqueous phase:

Percentage by weight or concentration calculated with respect to the continuous external aqueous phase

glucose:0.4 M

Synperonic PE/F68:5%

alginate:3%

water:qsp.

→ monodisperse inverse emulsion E_i^2 : $\phi_g = 0.7$

The monodisperse emulsion E_i^2 is the one prepared in Example 2. The two polydisperse double emulsions obtained are introduced into a Couette cell ($R_3 - R_2 = 100 \mu m$) and subjected to a given shearing level.

For each double emulsion, the influence of the shearing level on the diameter of the droplets is studied. The results are set out in Figure 4.

For a given shearing, the higher the viscosity of the continuous aqueous phase (higher quantity of alginate), the smaller the mean diameter of the droplets of emulsion.

It should be noted that, in the case of emulsion E^4 (alginate: 2% by weight), and for a shearing of 1680 s^{-1} , a very close distribution of the droplet size is obtained.

- mean diameter = $5.3 \mu\text{m}$
- polydispersity = 10.5%

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE

Operating as in Example 1, the following double emulsion E_c is prepared, defined by a weight fraction ϕ_g of 0.9, where ϕ_g represents the ratio of the weight of emulsion E_1^2 to the total weight of the double emulsion:

→ external continuous aqueous phase:

Percentage by weight or concentration calculated with respect to the external aqueous phase:

glucose:0.4 M
Synperonic PE/F68:25%
water:qsp.

→ monodisperse inverse emulsion E_1^2 of Example 2.

In the Couette device of Figure 1 ($R_3 - R_2 = 100 \mu\text{m}$), the influence of the shearing level on the diameter of the inverse emulsion droplets is studied.

Figure 5 shows the variations in the mean diameter of the droplets as a function of the shearing level.

However, a coalescence of the droplets is very quickly observed.

Thus the absence of alginate or the presence of an excessive quantity of Synperonic PR/F68 in the external aqueous phase results in great instability of the resulting double emulsion.

CLAIMS

1. Fractionatable polydisperse stable double emulsion of the water-in-oil-in-water type consisting of 50 to 95% by weight, with respect to the total weight of the double emulsion, of droplets of a monodisperse inverse emulsion Ei dispersed in a continuous aqueous phase;

- the continuous aqueous phase comprising a polysaccharide thickening agent at 1 to 10% by weight with respect to the total weight of the continuous aqueous phase; a water-soluble sequenced copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide as surfactant; and an osmotic pressure balancing agent;

- the emulsion Ei having a viscosity less than or equal to the viscosity of the continuous aqueous phase and consisting of 50 to 95% by weight, with respect to the total weight of Ei, of droplets of an internal aqueous phase dispersed in an oily phase;

- the internal aqueous phase comprising at least one hydrophilic active substance;

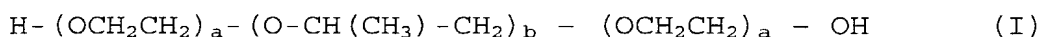
- the oily phase comprising polyglycerol polyricinoleate as surfactant.

2. Double emulsion according to Claim 1, characterised in that it comprises at least 60% by weight of droplets of emulsion Ei with respect to the total weight of the double emulsion.

3. Double emulsion according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the agent for balancing the osmotic pressure is glucose.

4. Double emulsion according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the polysaccharide thickening agent is an alginate, preferably an alginate having a molar mass of between 3000 and 6000 g/mol.

5. Double emulsion according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the formula of the sequenced copolymer is:



in which

a is an integer between 50 and 120; and

b is an integer between 20 and 100.

6. Double emulsion according to Claim 5, characterised in that the continuous aqueous phase comprises 1 to 5% by weight, with respect to the total weight of the continuous aqueous phase, of alginate, preferably an alginate having a molar mass of between 3000 and 6000 g/mol, as a thickener; and 3 to 10% by weight with respect to the total weight of the continuous aqueous phase of the sequenced polymer of formula (I) as defined in Claim 5, as a surfactant.

7. Double emulsion according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the continuous aqueous phase comprises glucose as osmotic pressure balancing agent, the

molar ratio of the glucose concentration in the continuous aqueous phase to the concentration of active substance in the internal aqueous phase being between 1.5 and 2.5.

8. Double emulsion according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the oily phase comprises 60 to 90% by weight of polyglycerol polyricinoleate and 1 to 40% by weight dodecane.

9. Double emulsion according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that Ei comprises at least 60% by weight of droplets of internal aqueous phase.

10. Method of preparing a monodisperse stable double emulsion of the water-in-oil-in-water type, characterised in that a polydisperse double emulsion according to any one of Claims 1 to 9 is subjected to a controlled shearing so that the same maximum shearing is applied to all the emulsion.

11. Method according to Claim 10, characterised in that the controlled shearing is effected by bringing the said polydisperse double emulsion into contact with a moving solid surface, the velocity gradient characterising the flow of emulsion being constant in a direction perpendicular to the said moving solid surface.

12. Method according to any one of Claims 10 to 11, characterised in that the maximum value of the shearing level is 1 to 1.10^5 s^{-1} , preferably 100 to 5000 s^{-1} .

13. Method according to any one of Claims 10 to 12, characterised in that the shearing is effected by means of a

cell consisting of two concentric cylinders rotating with respect to each other.

14. Method according to any one of Claims 10 to 13, characterised in that the shearing is effected by means of a cell consisting of two moving parallel plates oscillating with respect to each other.

15. Method according to any one of Claims 10 to 14, characterised in that the shearing is effected by means of a cell consisting of two concentric discs rotating with respect to each other.

16. Monodisperse stable double emulsion of the water-in-oil-in-water type, consisting of 50 to 95% by weight, with respect to the total weight of double emulsion, of droplets of a monodisperse inverse emulsion Ei dispersed in a continuous aqueous phase;

- the continuous aqueous phase comprising a polysaccharide thickening agent at 1 to 10% by weight with respect to the total weight of the continuous aqueous phase; a water-soluble sequenced copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide as surfactant; and an osmotic pressure balancing agent;

- the emulsion Ei having a viscosity less than or equal to the viscosity of the continuous aqueous phase and consisting of 50 to 95% by weight, with respect to the total weight of Ei, of droplets of an internal aqueous phase dispersed in an oily phase;

- the internal aqueous phase comprising at least one hydrophilic active substance;

- the oily phase comprising polyglycerol polyricinoleate as surfactant.

17. Emulsion according to Claim 16, characterised in that the mean diameter of the droplets of emulsion E_i is between 1 and 10 μm .

(12) DEMANDE INTERNATIONALE PUBLIÉE EN VERTU DU TRAITÉ DE COOPÉRATION
EN MATIÈRE DE BREVETS (PCT)

(19) Organisation Mondiale de la Propriété
Intellectuelle
Bureau international



(43) Date de la publication internationale
29 mars 2001 (29.03.2001)

PCT

(10) Numéro de publication internationale
WO 01/21297 A1

(51) Classification internationale des brevets⁷: B01F 17/00

(74) Mandataire: JACOBSON, Claude; Cabinet Lavoix, 2,
place d'Estienne d'Orves, F-75441 Paris Cedex 09 (FR).

(21) Numéro de la demande internationale:

PCT/FR00/02434

(22) Date de dépôt international:

4 septembre 2000 (04.09.2000)

(25) Langue de dépôt:

français

(26) Langue de publication:

français

(30) Données relatives à la priorité:

99/11745 20 septembre 1999 (20.09.1999) FR

(71) Déposant (pour tous les États désignés sauf US):
CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE (CNRS) [FR/FR]; 3, rue Michel Ange, F-75016
Paris (FR).

(81) États désignés (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ,
BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE,
DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU,
ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS,
LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO,
NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR,
TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) États désignés (régional): brevet ARIPO (GH, GM, KE,
LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), brevet eurasién
(AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), brevet européen
(AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU,
MC, NL, PT, SE), brevet OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,
GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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Publiée:

— Avec rapport de recherche internationale.

En ce qui concerne les codes à deux lettres et autres abrévia-
tions, se référer aux "Notes explicatives relatives aux codes et
abréviations" figurant au début de chaque numéro ordinaire de
la Gazette du PCT.

(54) Title: POLYDISPERSE DOUBLE EMULSION, CORRESPONDING MONODISPERSE DOUBLE EMULSION AND
METHOD FOR PREPARING THE MONODISPERSE EMULSION

(54) Titre: EMULSION DOUBLE POLYDISPERSE, EMULSION DOUBLE MONODISPERSE CORRESPONDANTE ET PRO-
CEDE DE PREPARATION DE L'EMULSION MONODISPERSE

(57) Abstract: The invention concerns a fractionable polydisperse stable double oil-in-water emulsion, consisting of 50 to 95 wt.%, relative to the total weight of the double emulsion, droplets of an invert monodisperse emulsion Ei dispersed in a continuous aqueous phase; the continuous aqueous phase comprising a polysaccharide thickening agent in a proportion of 1 to 10 wt.% relative to the total weight of the continuous aqueous phase; a water-soluble ethylene oxide and propylene oxide block copolymer as surfactant; and an osmotic pressure balancing agent; the emulsion Ei having a viscosity not higher than the viscosity of the continuous aqueous phase and consisting of 50 to 95 wt.%, relative to the total weight of Ei, droplets of an internal aqueous phase dispersed in an oily phase; the internal aqueous phase comprising at least an active hydrophilic substance; the oily phase comprising polyglycerol polyricinoleate as surfactant. The invention further concerns the corresponding monodisperse double emulsion of the same formulation and the method for preparing it starting from the claimed polydisperse double emulsion.

(57) Abrégé: La présente invention concerne une émulsion double stable, polydisperse, fractionnable, de type eau dans l'huile dans eau constituée de 50 à 95 % en poids, par rapport au poids total de l'émulsion double, de gouttelettes d'une émulsion inverse Ei monodisperse dispersées dans une phase aqueuse continue; la phase aqueuse continue comprenant un agent épaississant polysaccharidique à raison de 1 à 10 % en poids par rapport au poids total de la phase aqueuse continue; un copolymère séquencé hydrosoluble d'oxyde d'éthylène et d'oxyde de propylène à titre de tensioactif; et un agent d'équilibrage de la pression osmotique; l'émulsion Ei présentant une viscosité inférieure ou égale à la viscosité de la phase aqueuse continue et étant constituée de 50 à 95 % en poids, par rapport au poids total de Ei, de gouttelettes d'une phase aqueuse interne dispersées dans une phase huileuse; la phase aqueuse interne comprenant au moins une substance active hydrophile; la phase huileuse comprenant du polyricinoléate de polyglycérol à titre de tensioactif. L'invention a en outre pour objet l'émulsion double, monodisperse, correspondante, de même formulation et son procédé de préparation au départ de l'émulsion double polydisperse revendiquée.

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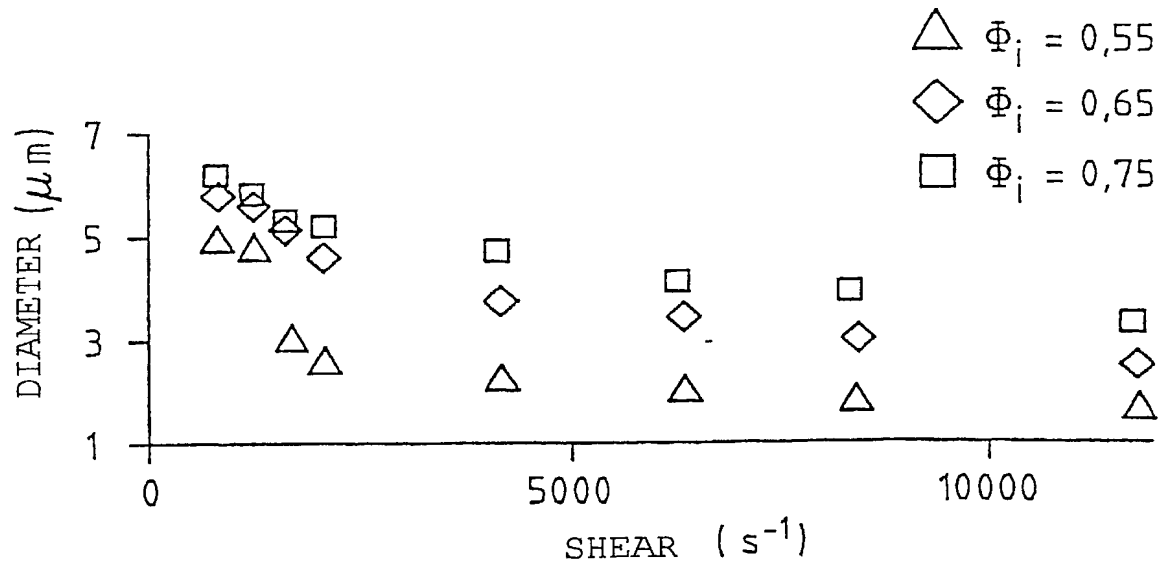


FIG.2

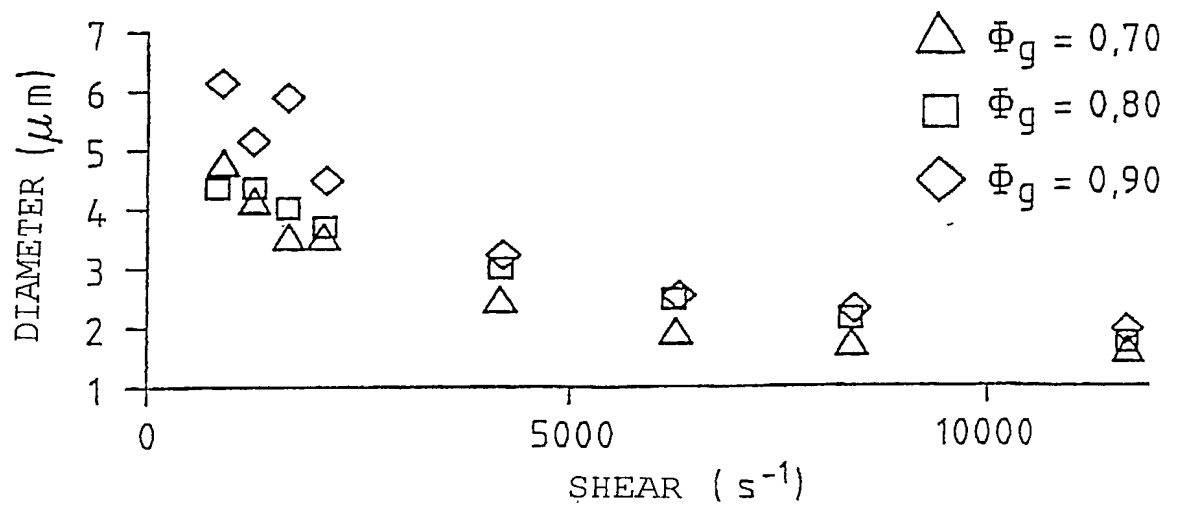


FIG.3

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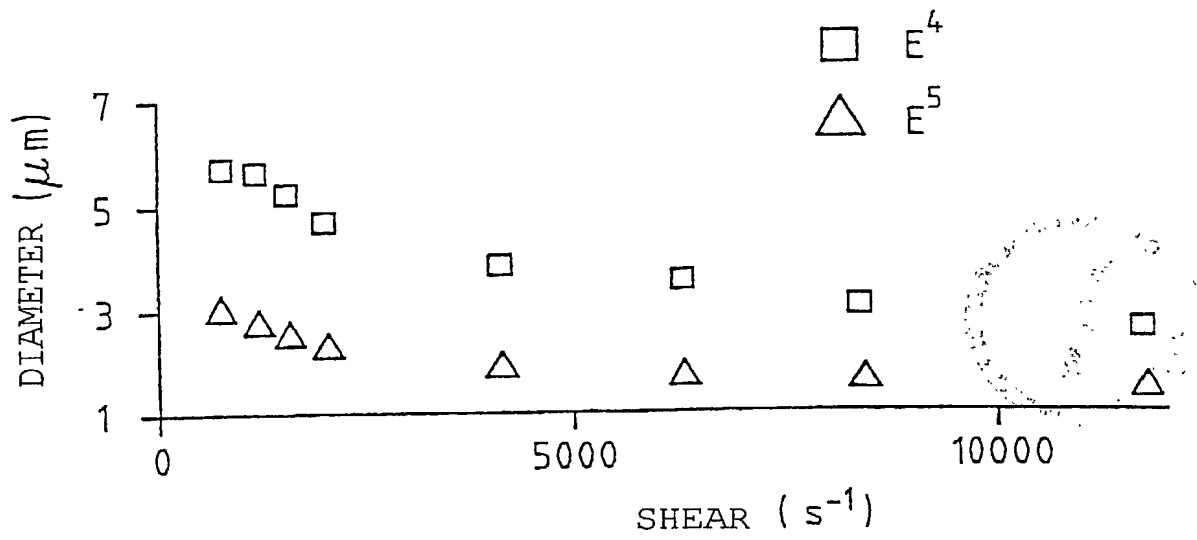


FIG.4

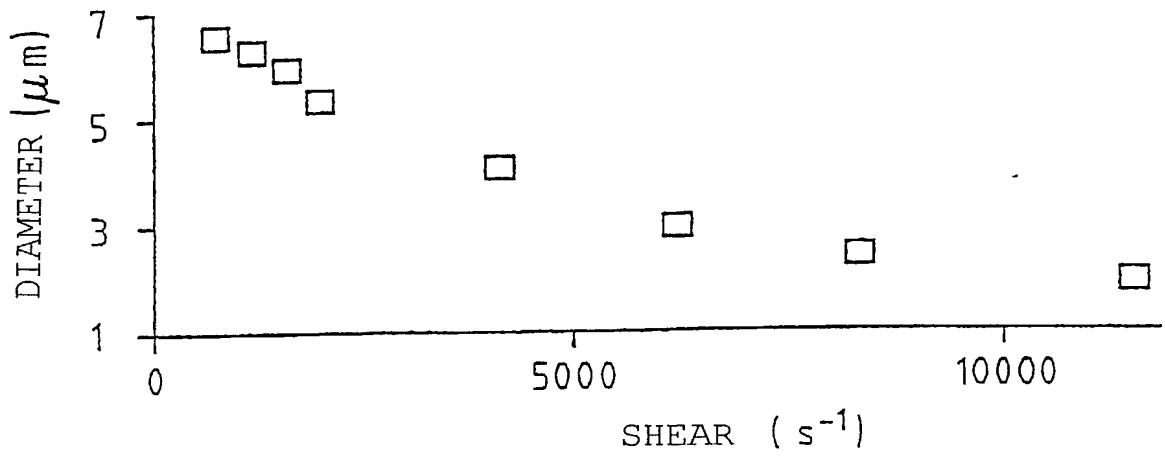


FIG.5

#4

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

Polydisperse double emulsion, corresponding monodisperse double emulsion and method for preparing the monodisperse emulsion

the specification of which: *(check one)*

[] is attached hereto.

[] was filed on _____ as application Serial No. _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

[X] was described and claimed in International application No. PCT/FR00/02434 filed on September 4, 2000 and as amended on _____ (if any).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 USC 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Country	Application Number	Date of Filing (day, month, year)	Priority Claimed
FRANCE	99 11745	20/09/99	YES

(Complete this part only if this is a continuing application.)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 USC 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 USC 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status--patented, pending, abandoned)

POWER OF ATTORNEY

The undersigned hereby authorizes the U.S. attorney or agent named herein to accept and follow instructions from _____ as to any action to be taken in the Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the U.S. attorney or agent and the undersigned. In the event of a change in the persons from whom instructions may be taken, the U.S. attorney or agent named herein will be so notified by the undersigned.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the registered patent attorneys represented by Customer No. **000466** to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, including: **Robert J. PATCH, Reg. No. 17,355, Andrew J. PATCH, Reg. No. 32,925, Robert F. HARGEST, Reg. No. 25,590, Benoît CASTEL, Reg. No. 35,041, Eric JENSEN, Reg. No. 37,855, Thomas W. PERKINS, Reg. No. 33,027, and Roland E. LONG, Jr., Reg. No. 41,949,**

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon. 1-00

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2-00
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Date _____

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Citizenship: _____